

March 13, 1962

Mr. Milt Jolley
Executive Secretary
Cedar City Chamber of Commerce
Cedar City, Utah

Dear Mr. Jolley:

Reference is made to your letter of March 6, 1962 in which you request further information on our policy towards new wells in the Beryl-Enterprise area.

Our policy is, and has been, that no new depletions of the water supplies of the valley will be allowed. For a period of time after closure of the basin, we did allow sanitary wells to be drilled for houses on agricultural lands under the theory that such houses would occupy land having water under prior rights and the continued consumption of water would not be increased. Also, it was felt that this action would simplify procedures for the water users.

We found this policy was being abused. Thus, we are creating an amendment for wells to be drilled under new regulations in areas where there is no water under existing priority right users. This policy seems necessary to protect existing rights in accordance with the adjudication.

At the present time, there are about 32,000 acre-feet per year of pumping rights in the Beryl-Enterprise area. Water levels have been dropping rapidly for a number of years. We do not believe we should approve more wells and increase this trend. But, should it continue, somewhere along the line we would have to stop the lowest priorities from pumping, even though they had developed acreages.

New wells and increased uses would only hasten this day of reckoning should it develop. We hope it won't and believe we have caught it in time, but we have no basis for believing that additional uses can be approved. We appreciate the need of water for these subdivisions. However, there are rather simple procedures available for acquiring and transferring existing rights and our office will be glad to assist in any way that we can.

WBC/maa

cc: Mr. Dee G. Hansen
Cedar City, Utah
cc: Rollin Jensen
✓ Don Norseth
Keith Higginson
Francis Maye

Sincerely yours,

Wayne B. Griddle